Increasing Disabilities Among Infants

1678. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the disabilities among infants are on the increase ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the policy decision taken at the national level to help the disabled;

(d) the rehabilitation schemes drawn up therefor; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No comparative study to indicate the increase in infants disabilities has been done.

(b) question does not arise.

(c) The Policy of the Government is to provide educational, social and economic rehabilitation of the disabled so as to integrate them in the national mainstream. In pursuance of this policy, a number of schemes/programmes are being implemented.

(d) and (e) Details of the various rehabilitation schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare are at Annexed Statement.

Existing Programmes of the Ministry of Welfare in the field of Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

1. Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations :

Under this Scheme, financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations on 90% basis (95% for rural areas), for providing education, training and rehabilitation facilities to the disabled person Assistance is given both for recuring and non-recurring items like construction of building, purchase of equipment, publication of journals, salary of the staff and contingencies etc.

2. Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitment of Aids/Appliances :

The scheme is meant to provide aids and appliances to disabled persons free of cost to persons having income of less than Rs. 1200 p.m. and at 50% of the cost to persons having income between Rs. 1200—2500 p.m. Under the scheme, aids and appliances costing upto Rs. 3600 such as crutches, calipers, artificial limbs, wheel chairs, braille equipments, hearing aids etc. are made available to the needy.

3. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons :

This Scheme envisages providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations working for leprosy cured persons. Assistance is given upto 90% to such voluntary organisations who develop programmes for awareness generation, early intervention, educational and vocational training economic rehabilitation and social integration of the leprosy cured persons.

4. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Manpower Development in Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation :

This Scheme aisms at developing organisational and infrastructural facilities for manpower training of professionals, hostels and other assistance required for imparting training of various categories of workers/trainers such as vocational teachers, rehabilitation workers, attenders, wardens, etc. in the field of cerebral palsy and mental retradation. Assistance is given upto 100% of expenditure for recurring and non-recurring items.

5. Establishment and development of Special Schools :

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs upto the extent of 90% for establishment and upgradation of special schools in the four major disability areas—orthopadedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given for setting up of schools in districts where there is no special school at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

6. National Institutes :

In order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following National

Institutes have been set up in each major areas of disability :—

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.

(ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

(iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped. Bombay; and

(iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

These Institutes are apex level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling research, rehabilitation and development of suitable services modules for the handicapped. The Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their respective areas of disability. Development and standardisation of aids and appliances and preparation of community awareness materials, both for the electronic and the print media, with the target audience, the parents, the community and professionals working in the field etc. is also their responsibility.

In addition to four National Institutes, the following two organisation have been working in the field to provide training facilities and services for rehabilitation of persons with locomotor disabilities :—

(a) Institute for the Physically Handicapped (IPH), New Delhi :

(b) National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (NIRTAR Cuttack.

7. Employment:

3 per cent of civil posts in Group C and D under the Central Government and in public sector undertakings are reserved for the physically handicapped 1% each for visually speech and hearing and orthopaedically handicapped.

To assist the employable handicapped, 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 55 Special Cells in the Normal Employment Exchanges and 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VECs) (under the Ministry of Labour) are functioning across the country.

Deaths due to Consumption of Narcotics

1679. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) the number of incidents of death due to comsumption of narcotics in Gujarat during the last three years till date:

(b) what are the comparative figures of other States of the country:

(c) the number of de-addiction centres presently working in Gujarat; and

(d) the extent of financial assistance provided to the State Governments so far by the Central Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The statistics regarding the number of incident-of death due to consumption of narcotics are not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) At present five Counselling Centres and five De-addiction Centres are functioning in the State of Gujarat.

(d) Financial assistance for drug abuse-prevention is provided by the Govt. Government to the non-governmental organisations and not to the State Goverments. The amount of financial assistance provided to the NGOs in the State of Gujarat for this purpose during last three years is as follows :—

1991-92	. . Rs.	24,58,021
1992-93	. . Rs.	31,04,689
1993-94	. . Rs.	44,17,798
1994-95	. . Rs.	19,84,296 (upto Nov. 1994)

Identification of Castes/Classes in the List of OBCs

1680. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the castes/classes included in the lists of "Other Backward Classes" as identified by different States and UTs in the country as on date; and